THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) The US Commission on International Religious Freedom has commented adversely in its report for 2002 on violence against minorities in Gujarat.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Under the provisions of the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993, the National Human Rights Commission hears complaints of human rights violations and make suitable recommendations to the authorities in India. It does not issue any statement on reports emanating from other countries. However, the Indian Ambassador to the United States has taken up the matter with the Chairman of the US Commission on International Religious Freedom and clarified the position with a view to correcting many of the misperceptions regarding the communal violence in Gujarat in March, 2002.

Safety of Women in Delhi

4232. MISS MABEL REBELLO:

SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the reports captioned "City (Delhi) is now safe for women, says Commissioner" appeared in the media;

(b) if so, the measures devised and action initiated to ensure safety of the women folk in the capital city and how far it has been successful; and

(c) the preventive measures initiated to instil confidence among the women?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Delhi Police accords top priority to the prevention and detection of crime against women. Crimes against women are constantly analysed and steps are taken accordingly to prevent such crimes in future. The preventive measures to instil confidence among women include streamlining the functioning of Crime Against Women Cell; stationing of Police Control Room vehicles near women institutions and places frequented by them; deployment of police personnel at the Girls/ Women institutions to instil a sense of security; preventive action against

the persons known or suspected to be indulging in crime against women; and setting up of a Women Police Mobile Team to attend to distress calls from women.

Staff crunch in Delhi Police

4233. MISS MABEL REBELLO:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Delhi Police is feeling staff crunch to make foot patrols effective, as reported in the media;

(b) if so, the action plan to strengthen beat functioning in the capital; and

(c) whether vulnerable areas around the police stations in the capital have been identified to control incidents of crime at night; if so, the details of these sensitive areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) and (b) The optimum utilization of the available manpower has enabled Delhi Police to maintain the efficacy of beat patrolling which in fact constitutes one of the major factors responsible for progressive decline in crime.

(c) The crime situation in different parts of the city is monitored and analyzed in order to identify areas where special measures to control crime are needed to be taken. This is a continuing process.

Security lapses in J & K

4234. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:
DR. T. SUBRARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there were security lapses which encouraged more extremist activities in operation in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether army has been given more firepower in Jammu and Kashmir after incidents of 24th March, 2003;

(d) if so, whether any directive has been issued to security forces to take measures to check infiltration and deal firmly with extremists that are operating at present in Jammu and Kashmir; and